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19 January 1955

The Honorable Sherman Adams  
Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sherman:

I enclose a copy of the proposed Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 introduced by Senator Mansfield to set up a Joint Congressional Committee on Central Intelligence. Also enclosed is a copy of the statement by Senator Mansfield in introducing this Resolution. I have discussed this, and somewhat similar resolutions introduced in the last Congress, with Senators Russell, Saltonstall and other members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and also with the members of the Armed Services Committee of the House. In general, I have found a lack of enthusiasm for this Resolution on the part of the members of the Armed Services Committees, but Mike Mansfield has stirred up considerable impetus back of his Resolution and it seems important that I should know the President's attitude -- at least for my confidential guidance.

Mike Mansfield is a good personal friend of mine and has discussed this matter with me on several occasions. I have avoided being drawn into the issue on one side or the other as yet, but have pointed out to Mike that I had maintained close contact with the appropriate members of the Armed Services Committees and that I had received from them full consideration of the various matters that I had had to present to them since I have been Director. Accordingly, I made it clear I was not seeking any change in the present situation.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
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There are certain features of the proposed Concurrent Resolution which might raise issues as to the division of responsibility between the Executive and Legislative branches of the government. Insofar as the personnel of the proposed Joint Committee is concerned, Mike Mansfield's latest suggestion provides for its membership to be drawn from members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees which work on CIA affairs. This would mean no enlarging of the area of knowledge within the Congress. I am, however, somewhat apprehensive about a Special Committee which would have a permanent staff since if this staff were to look over my shoulder all the time on sensitive operations, a serious question of security might arise unless the personnel of the staff was most carefully selected.

I have just come back from a talk with Senator Saltonstall who feels that it might be useful for the President to discuss the matter with the two ranking members of both the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services. He feels that some executive guidance is important unless it is desired that the Resolution be passed.

Faithfully yours,

~~WHD~~

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enclosures

AWD:hea

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